

Who ran on November 3rd? US Senate, House, and State Legislature Candidates by Race & Gender

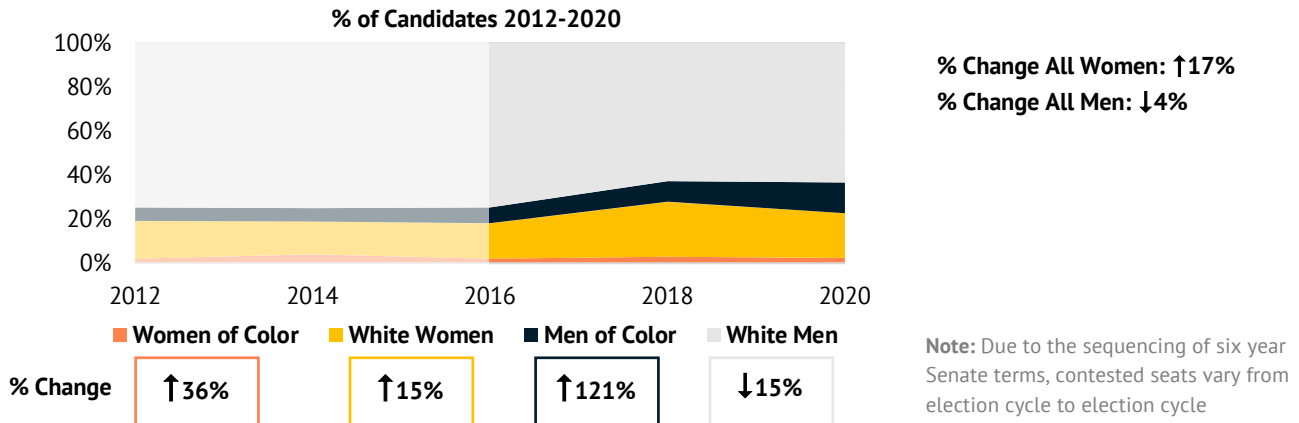
November, 2020

Since 2016, there has been a marked increase in women and people of color on the general election ballot.

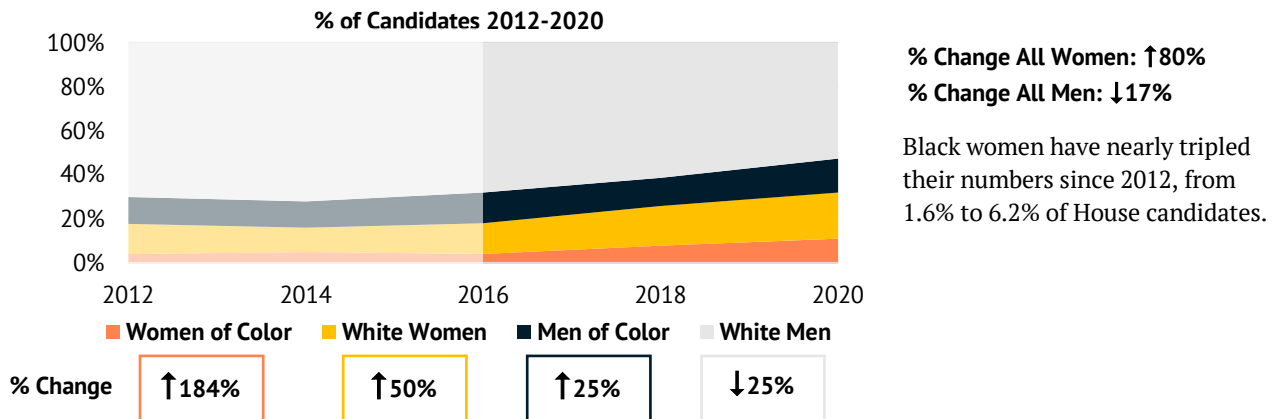
Here's what you need to know

- Reviewing the 2020 electoral landscape, we find political power shifting dramatically toward women and people of color, and away from white men.
- Women and people of color are overcoming pervasive structural barriers to win primaries and gain a place on the November ballot from coast to coast
- Our data show minor changes between 2012 and 2016, then a dramatic acceleration since 2016.

Candidates for U.S. Senate 2012-2020

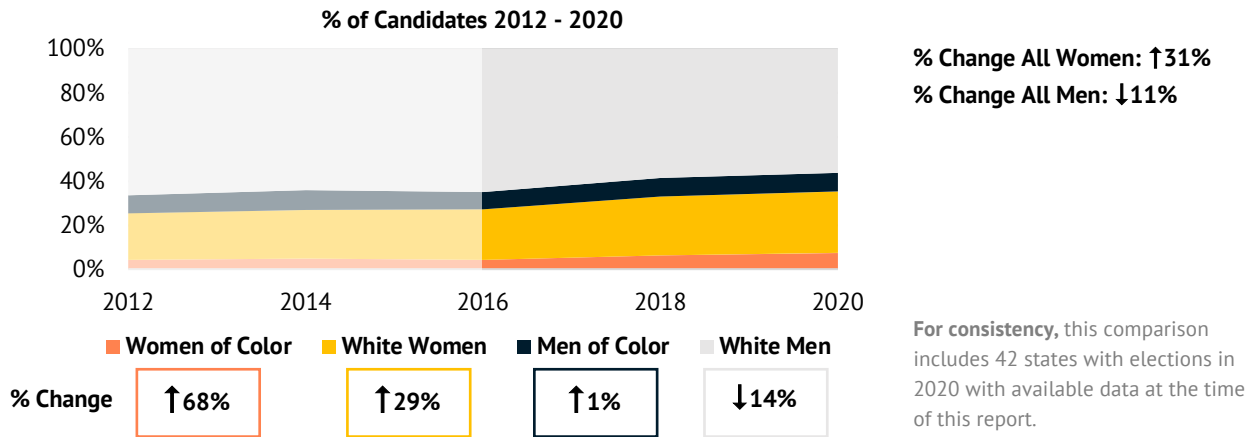


Candidates for House of Representatives 2012-2020



State Legislature











Candidates for State Legislature 2012-2020



States Approaching Gender Parity

In 9 states the candidate pool for State Legislators is approaching gender parity (or in the case of Nevada, exceeding gender parity.)

% of Women Candidates for State Legislature 2012 to 2020

					
State	Arizona	Colorado	Maine	Michigan	Nebraska
2012	35%	29%	28%	23%	23%
2020	47%	45%	40%	45%	40%
					
State	New Hampshire	New Mexico	Nevada	Oregon	Washington
2012	32%	30%	29%	28%	31%
2020	40%	45%	59%	47%	43%

Women of Color Rise

Across all levels of office, women of color have made historic gains in representation. Meanwhile, the massive over-representation of white men is on the wane, despite widespread assumptions about their superior “electability.”

% Change as Candidates from 2012 to 2020

White Men				Women of Color		
2012	2020	Rate of Decrease	Candidates 2012-2020	2012	2020	Rate of Increase
74.3%	63%	↓15%	US Senate	1.8%	2.5%	↑36%
70.1%	53%	↓25%	US House of Representatives	4.0%	11.3%	↑184%
66.4%	57%	↓14%	State Legislatures	4.0%	6.7%	↑68%

What about “Electability?”

[Our research](#) shows that when women and people of color are on the ballot, they win at the same rates as white men. Throughout the entire political system, only one demographic group is losing power: white men. [In America’s cities](#), for example, white men’s share of elected offices has decreased by 13%. These changes were foreshadowed in our 2017 opinion research, when a bi-partisan majority of voters said there were too many white men in elected office and supported measures to elect more women and people of color.

Seeking additional demographic data about the political landscape?

The Campaign is available to generate custom data and analyses on the demographics of power focused on specific ethnicities, levels of office, and/or geographies.

We can also provide the context, offering an overview of structural barriers within the political system, why power is shifting, and how women and people of color are sparking change.

For more information, please write to hello@wholeads.us and follow us on Twitter [@WhoLeadsUs](https://twitter.com/WhoLeadsUs) for daily insights on the demographics of power across the country.

About The Reflective Democracy Campaign

The American political system is built to exclude women and people of color from power, distorting our democracy and resulting in unrepresentative policy outcomes that impact the lives of every single American. Yet today, women and people of color are overcoming these structural barriers to win elections at historic levels throughout the country.

The Reflective Democracy Campaign is the only resource for data and analysis on the race and gender of elected officials and candidates at the federal, state, county, and city levels. Sparking activism to open the halls of power to people of color and women, our data, reports, infographic toolkit, and other resources are freely available at [WhoLeads.US](https://www.wholeads.us).

Our recent investigations include:

- **Power Shift in America's Cities:** Dramatic gains by women and people of color are changing the face of power in America's largest cities. Learn more in our 2020 report: [Confronting the Demographics of Power: America's Cities](#).
- **Exposing the Criminal Justice System:** Our reports on America's [sheriffs](#) and [elected prosecutors](#) explore the broken demographics of a system foundationally biased against people of color, and harmful to women and families in crisis.
- **The Myth of White Male Electability:** Are white men really more electable than other candidates? We ran the numbers and exposed the "superior electability" of white men as a myth.